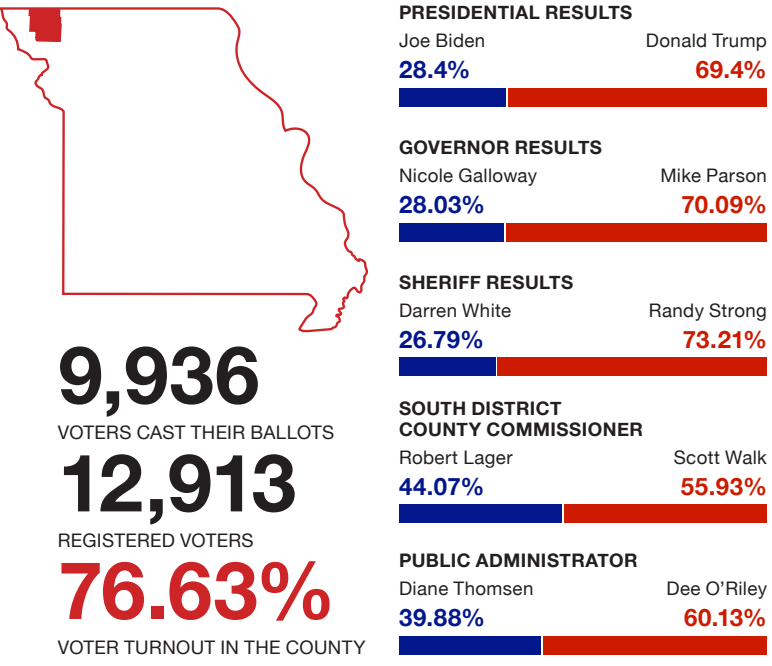


★★★ELECTION 2020

County supports GOP

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS - NODAWAY COUNTY



SAMANTHA COLLISON News Reporter | @sammiecollison

With a 76.63% voter turnout, Nodaway County saw a landslide victory for the incumbent sheriff and a victory for newcomers in the south district commissioner and public administrator races after unofficial results were posted at 9:30 p.m. Nov. 3.

“Voter turnout was big this year,” Nodaway County Assessor Rex Wallace said after reading off the unofficial results from each precinct at the Nodaway County Administration Building.

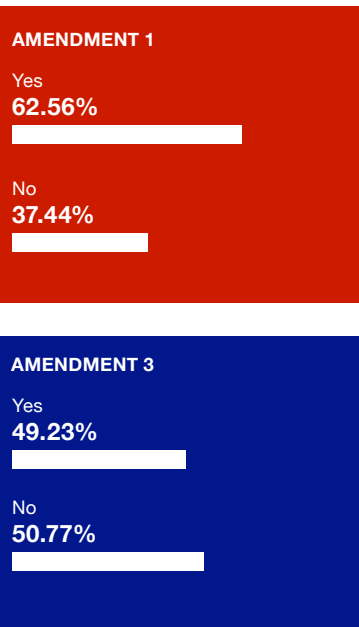
Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong won the vote by a 46-point margin, receiving 7,155 votes. His challenger Darren White — who served as sheriff of the county for eight years before Strong’s tenure — received 2,618 votes.

In the south district commissioner race, newcomers Scott A. Walk and Robert D. Lager faced off, with Walk prevailing by 10%. Walk is the health and safety manager for Northwest Missouri State University and the manager of Walk Farms; he received 3,128 votes. Lager received 2,558.

Incumbent Public Administrator of 12 years Diane Thomsen was defeated by Republican challenger Dee O’Riley, who serves as city clerk, treasurer and a tax preparer in Hopkins, Missouri. O’Riley received 5,772 votes, and Thomsen received 2,828, a 34-point difference.

Nodaway County had a total of 12,913 registered voters this year, and 2,161 people voted absentee or by mail.

In Nodaway County, 70.09% voted for Gov. Mike Parson — the unofficial winner — and 28.03% voted for Nicole Galloway.



EMILY NOYES | NW MISSOURIAN Kendrick Calfee contributed to this report.

Student voters react to delay in ballot count

ABIGAIL STARR News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

At time of publication, former Vice President Joe Biden held 248 electoral college votes and incumbent President Donald Trump held 214 electoral college votes.

Ballots in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nevada were still being counted.

On Nov. 4, Northwest students awaited the results of the 2020 Presidential Election after what some called a chaotic Election Day.

Senior Alica Trotter is one among the nation’s nearly 48 million voters aged 18-29 years old. Trotter said she needed to vote for Biden after conflict ensued in Hudson Perrin during the 2016 presidential election. Someone in the residence hall called her a “statistic” based on her race.

“As a Black female, Biden Harris was the lesser of two evils,” she said. “They’re showing they care about us, and there could be a Black woman in office, which is historical.”

Trotter said it’s unsettling not knowing when the final results will come in but predicts Biden will win.

Graduate student Matt Harkness voted for Trump in person due to his distrust in the mail-in and absentee ballot systems. Harkness said he voted for the Republican

Party over individual candidates and won’t be disappointed if Biden is the next president.

As of early Wednesday afternoon, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement’s initial estimate suggests that the aggregate youth voter turnout in 11 battleground states is between 47% and 49%, meaning nearly half of all eligible young people cast ballots in the most critical election races in the country. The estimate is based on the analysis of the 2020 national election exit poll and Census population data.

Sophomore Grace Vallis was decided on her vote for Biden early on in the election season. Vallis said she voted for Biden due to Trump’s inability to deliver on promises he made in 2016. She wore a shirt reading “Vote for Women” around campus Nov. 4.

Sophomores Morgan Nichols and Haillie Sitzmann voted for Biden last week in their home state, Iowa, but now worry Trump will catch up following results from swing states like Michigan and Pennsylvania. The two agreed they would be disappointed if Trump wins again but won’t be surprised.

SEE REACTION | A4



KENDRICK CALFEE | NW MISSOURIAN

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong speaks at the 2020 General Election Candidate Forum hosted by the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce. Strong beat his opponent, Darren White, by more than 4,500 votes Nov.3.

Strong beats White, wins second term

ANDREW WEGLEY Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

Four years after ousting former Sheriff Darren White and electing former Maryville Public Safety detective Randy Strong, Nodaway County residents showed up in record numbers Nov. 3 to reaffirm the decision they made in 2016, re-electing Strong by more than 4,500 votes to serve as sheriff until 2024.

In a race that pitted the same two candidates from 2016 against each other for the second cycle in a row, a contentious campaign season gave way to a blowout at the ballot box. After earning 5,049 votes

in 2016 and beating White by less than 1,000 votes, Strong, a Republican, tallied 7,155 votes this time around, winning all 17 of Nodaway County’s precincts and capturing more than 73% of the vote.

White, a Democrat, tallied 2,618 votes this election cycle, according to unofficial election results from the Nodaway County Clerk’s Office. White’s vote total marks a sizable decrease from his 2016 tally, when he won 4,386 votes, and signals a firm stance from county voters who have rejected White’s candidacy two election cycles in a row after he served as sheriff for eight

years from 2009-2017.

Strong watched the results trickle in from a crowded private room at A&G Restaurant, where more than 30 people gathered to support the sheriff, sipping water or beer, wearing “I Voted” stickers and eating cake to celebrate both Strong’s reelection and his birthday. He turned 65 Nov. 3, celebrating to the tune of a landslide victory in a race he always expected to win.

“I just didn’t know how it was going to turn out,” Strong said just before 9 p.m. Tuesday night, after all 17 county precincts reported, leaving the sheriff with an insurmountable lead as county officials counted more than 2,000 absentee ballots. “I felt we were gonna win, but this kind of support — I think we were able to bridge the gap between the two parties. I think we brought Democrats in as well as Republicans, and everybody knows that I don’t play that game, and so that makes me feel good that we had the Democratic support and Republican support. We’ll just take care of the people.”

SEE SHERIFF | A4



CAROLYN KASTER | AP PHOTO

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks Wednesday, Nov. 4 in Wilmington, Del.

Biden wins Wisconsin and Michigan, narrowing Trump’s path

JONATHAN LEMIRE AAMER MADHANI ZEKE MILLER JILL COLVIN ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden has won Michigan and Wisconsin, pushing him closer to 270 Electoral College votes and narrowing President Donald Trump’s possible path to reelection.

Only a handful of battleground states remain uncalled including Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Both Michigan and Wisconsin represent parts of the “blue wall” that slipped away from Democrats four years ago, paving the way for Trump’s election. Biden’s campaign had counted on winning back at least some of them.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS

UPDATE. AP’s earlier story follows below.

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a day of electoral uncertainty and legal action, Joe Biden won Wisconsin on Wednesday, reclaiming a key part of the “blue wall” that slipped away from Democrats four years ago and narrowing President Donald Trump’s pathway to reelection.

A full day after Election Day, neither candidate had cleared the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House. Margins remained tight in several fiercely contested states including the Great Lakes battlegrounds of Michigan and Pennsylvania. But Biden’s victory in Wisconsin loomed as an important step to the presidency.

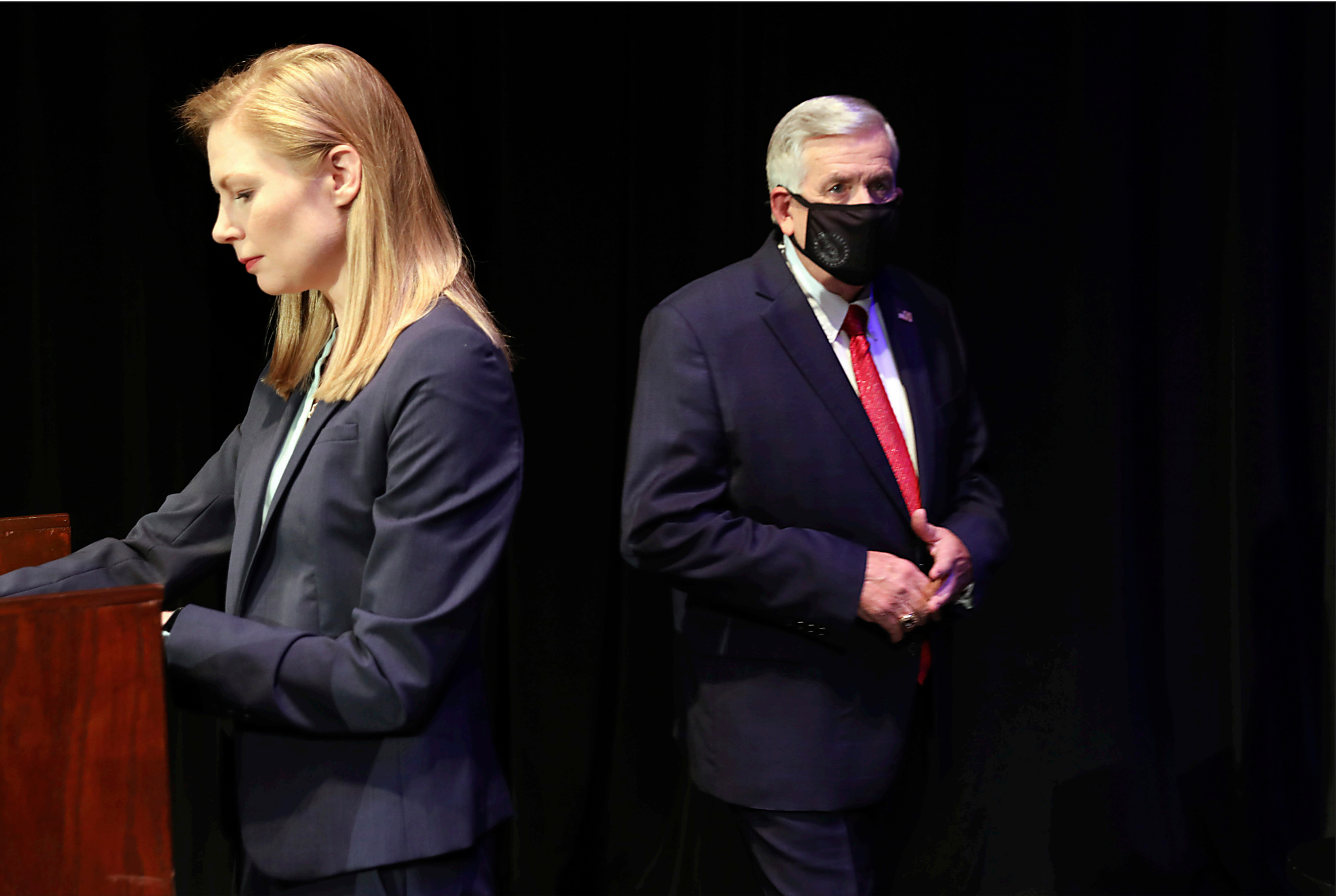
SEE ELECTION 2020 | A4

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In this Oct. 9 file photo, Missouri gubernatorial candidates Gov. Mike Parson and State Auditor Nicole Galloway are seen onstage before the Missouri gubernatorial debate at the Missouri Theatre in Columbia, Missouri. They opposed each other in the Nov. 3 general election.

Parson wins first full term as governor

SUMMER BALLENTINE
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Incumbent Republican Gov. Mike Parson has won another four years in of-

rice, turning back a challenge from Democratic Auditor Nicole Galloway on Tuesday.

Parson’s win is at least partially a referendum on his hands-off ap-

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proach to the coronavirus, which has been surging in Missouri for months. Missourians also supported the re-election bid of Republican President Donald Trump, who like Parson has opposed things such as mask mandates.

It was the first run for governor for both candidates. Parson, a former sheriff who was elected lieutenant governor in 2016, moved into the top job two years ago after former Republican Gov. Eric Greitens resigned in the face of possible impeachment amid multiple scandals.

Galloway’s pitch to voters was that Parson mangled his handling of the pandemic and that she would do better, including by requiring people to wear face masks. Parson, who has resisted imposing virus restrictions and instead left it to individuals to act responsibly to prevent the spread of the disease, has insisted that the state is managing the virus well and campaigned on his record in support of law enforcement.

Meanwhile, four-term Republican Rep. Ann Wagner won reelection in her suburban St. Louis congressional district against Democratic state Sen. Jill Schupp in a race political experts had rated a toss-up.

Here’s a look at the top issues and candidates in Missouri’s election:

VOTING

Missouri lawmakers passed a law allowing anyone to vote by mail this year because of the pandemic, as long as they got their ballots notarized. As of Sunday, about 828,000 Mis-

souri voters had cast early in-person or mail-in ballots. That’s nearly three times as many as were counted in the last presidential election.

Elections officials were predicting a 75% voter turnout rate this election, which would be Missouri’s highest since 1992, when 78% of registered voters cast ballots in an election won by Democrat Bill Clinton.

TRUMP CARRIES MISSOURI

President Donald Trump has carried Missouri for the second time. The Republican defeated former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden four years after he defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton by nearly 19 percentage points. Missouri, once considered a swing state, has become decidedly more conservative over the past two decades.

REDISTRICTING

Missouri voters have passed a new redistricting measure that will override redistricting changes they adopted just two years ago. The 2018 “Clean Missouri” initiative required state House and Senate districts to be drawn to achieve “partisan fairness” and made Missouri the first state to adopt a specific formula known as the “efficiency gap” to measure fairness. The Republican-led Legislature put an alternative proposal on the ballot to drop partisan fairness and competitiveness to the bottom of the priority list for redistricting. It also abolishes the newly created position of a nonpartisan demographer to draft districts and instead makes a pair of bipartisan

commissions responsible for that task, as they had been in the past.

TERM LIMITS

Missouri voters have rejected a ballot measure that would have limited the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and state auditor to two four-year terms in office. Currently, only the governor and treasurer are restricted to eight years in office.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has won a second four-year term in office by staying off Democrat Yinka Faleti, a 44-year-old Army veteran who previously worked as executive director of the St. Louis-area racial equity group Forward through Ferguson. Ashcroft has supported requiring voters to show photo identification at the polls. Faleti criticized Ashcroft’s handling of elections during the pandemic.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Republican Attorney General Eric Schmitt has won election to a full term. The governor appointed Schmitt attorney general in 2018 to replace former Attorney General Josh Hawley, who left office two years into his term to join the U.S. Senate. Schmitt had been serving as the state treasurer and previously was elected to the state Senate. Democrat Rich Finneran, a 36-year-old former assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, ran against him.

TREASURER

Voters have elected Republican Scott Fitzpatrick to a full term as state treasurer. Parson appointed Fitzpatrick to succeed Schmitt as treasurer after Schmitt left for the Attorney General’s Office in 2018. Fitzpatrick at the time was leading the budget committee in the state House. Democrat Vicki Lorenz Englund, a 46-year-old former state representative, campaigned to unseat him.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe won a full four-year term in office by defeating Democrat Alissia Cannady, who performed well but ultimately lost a race to become Kansas City’s mayor last year. Parson appointed Kehoe lieutenant governor two years ago after Parson left the office to become governor when Greitens resigned. In Missouri, the governor and lieutenant governor are elected separately.

CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Incumbents won reelection in seven of Missouri’s eight congressional districts. The exception was in the 1st District, which covers St. Louis and part of St. Louis County. Cori Bush, a nurse and racial justice activist, pulled an upset in the August primary by defeating longtime incumbent Democratic Rep. William Lacy Clay. Bush was elected Tuesday.

Find AP’s full election coverage at [APNews.com/Election2020](https://apnews.com/Election2020).

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MHS honored for record of college prep

SIDNEY LOWRY
Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

Maryville High School received the College Success Award from GreatSchools.org for the third consecutive year for its efforts in preparing students to be successful in higher education.

According to GreatSchools.org, the 2020 College Success Award recognizes 2,158 high schools across 29 states. This award rated MHS at a 9 out of 10 for preparing its students for college with the courses and resources offered. In comparison to state averages, MHS surpassed the scores in almost every category.

Principal Thom Alvarez gives credit for this award to the students taking these courses and the teachers who are teaching them. He said having students who are willing to challenge themselves by taking the upper-level courses and teachers who are willing to be qualified to teach them is ultimately why MHS was recognized.

According to the 2020-21 Course Catalog, MHS offers dual credit enrollment classes through Northwest and Advanced Placement courses to offer students more college credit.

This aims to better prepare students for courses they will take after high school. Because of the wide variety of classes, 25% of students at MHS are enrolled in a dual credit course, which is 11% above the state average.

Social Studies Department Chair Catrina Pelton said she tries to make her classes as close to a

regular college course as she can to help prepare her students.

“Similar lecture styles, homework assignments and testing,” Pelton said. “I see my role as the final preparation for college. I take that very seriously. I want my students to be prepared for what comes next.”

GreatSchools.org synopsis of MHS’s accomplishments showed that 64% of students plan on attending a four-year college or vocational program, which is 27% higher than the state average. To prepare those students, MHS believes it is important to give students the opportunity to leave high school with college credit.

Taking dual credit courses in high school is significantly cheaper than taking the courses in college, and taking it before heading to higher education gives more individualized instruction.

“A lot of our kids will take five or six classes before they leave high school that they’ll already have college credit for,” Alvarez said. “Often times our kids enter university with already enough units to be considered a sophomore.”

Counselor Becky Houtchens said she encourages students to take dual credit courses in high school so they can have more support from the teachers while taking the harder courses. On top of having resources at the school, dual credit students also have outside resources.

“Our students enrolled in dual credit courses through Northwest are able to access all of the academic support through the Student



SUBMITTED
Sarah Jeter teaches Advanced Placement psychology students about sleep disorders Oct. 29 at Maryville High School. Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, students have been attending in-person classes twice per week.

Success Center that is available to any Northwest student, and some do take advantage of that,” Houtchens said.

If students don’t want to take dual credit courses, other options are offered through the University. The Northwest Technical School provides a six week ACT prep course through their Community Education Program. MHS also offers a semester-long ACT prep class to help students achieve the scores

they want on the test. Many people at the high school encourage students to take advantage of the courses and resources they have available to them.

Dual credit at the high school is almost a third of the cost than a course would be at the college level.

“I can’t stress enough that it’s important that our kids are willing to challenge themselves,” Alvarez said. “They’re the ones having to

put the work in, so their willingness and challenging themselves to take advantage of this is what ultimately makes it so successful.”

If a student is looking to enroll in dual credit or AP courses through the high school, they can talk to their dedicated counselor when signing up for classes in the spring.

If they are looking for ACT Prep through the Northwest Technical School, they can visit the MHS Personal Enrichment page.

Fire persists at pellet plant, smoldering supply

MADLINE MAPES
News Reporter I @MadelineDMapes

A wood chip fire at the Northwest pellet plant continues to persist after it was discovered Wednesday, Oct. 21.

An employee at the pellet plant Rick Swaney said he found the fire Wednesday when he glanced at the piles and saw something swirling from a tall pile of wood chips.

“I saw what I thought was steam coming up out of there,” Swaney said.

Swaney climbed up the mountainous pile of wood chips. Once at the top, he looked down and saw the wood chips ablaze on the concrete, proving his initial thoughts wrong.

He explained that wood chips

are a lot like hay. When wet hay is mixed with dry hay and it gets hot, the hay can catch fire. Swaney described it as something similar to spontaneous combustion.

None of Swaney’s supervisors were at pellet plant that day, which meant that they were not able to start putting the fire out until Thursday.

The fire was still burning on Oct. 30. Roughly 15 men were on top of the wood chip piles, four of which were manning two front-end loaders and two excavators to move the burned wood chips out of the pile to be soaked down by a large fire hose.

Swaney said the wood chips are used by the University, primarily used by the John C. Redden Jr.

Power Plant for the central heating system on campus. He noted that the power plant has not helped in taming the ever-lasting fire.

Facility Services Director Tina Frueh said in an email to the Northwest Missourian that this typically happens a few times a year, but the persistence of the fire is also due to the drought-like conditions, low humidity and high winds that have come across the area.

“Due to the decomposing nature of a wood chip pile, spontaneous combustion can happen when decomposed material generates enough heat,” Frueh said.

University Police Department Chief Clarence Green said the UPD’s night shift has been helping to keep the fire at bay overnight

since it has begun burning.

Green said UPD was notified by the pellet plant that there was a fire among the wood chips.

“We’ve been going out there every night spraying it down with water,” Green said.

Green explained that the night shift officers will go out every couple of hours and spray down the fire.

He noted that there have been about three times when the fire became too much for them to handle and UPD called the Maryville Fire Department to help combat the flames.

At 6:25 a.m., Oct. 26, UPD tweeted out a video of the Maryville Public Safety - Fire Division spraying down burning wood chips and

smoke billowing from the piles of burnt wood.

“We’ve had smoke going across campus quite a bit, so that’s why we put out the message,” Green said.

Green explained that there may also be some financial setbacks because of the burned wood chips. The burned supplies will need to be replaced for this year’s upcoming winter season. It is currently unknown how much of the stockpile of wood chips will need to be replaced.

Frueh said that the University burns up to 10,000 to 12,000 tons of wood chips per year based on weather.

Maryville Public Safety was contacted but did not respond in time for publication.

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Nov. 5

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Nov. 2
There is an open investigation for property damage at Lot 41.

Nov. 1
There is an open investigation for stealing at an unknown location.
There is an open investigation for stealing at Lot 20.
There is an open investigation for stealing at Lot 38.
A summons was issued to **Cameron R. Clay**, 18, for driving while suspended at Lot 29.

Oct. 31
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Dieterich Hall.
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Roberta Hall.
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

Oct. 29
There is an open investigation for property damage at Roberta Hall.
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Franken Hall.

Oct. 28
There is an open investigation for a sexual assault that allegedly occurred Oct. 22 at Tower Suites.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Nov. 1
A summons was issued to **Spencer C. Weir**, 19, of Parnell, Missouri, for minor in possession at the 500 block of North Walnut Street.
A summons was issued to **Noah L. Allwood**, 18, for minor in possession and no headlamps after dark at the 600 block of North Walnut Street.

Oct. 31
A summons was issued to **Tristynn M. Clark**, 18, of Grain Valley, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated, possession of marijuana, failure to maintain right half of roadway and speeding on the 400 block of North College Drive.
A summons was issued to **Jayden M. Spence**, 21, for driving while intoxicated and failure to obey a steady red light at the 100 block of East Third Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 100 block of South Vine Street.
A summons was issued to **Austin S. Tounsand**, 23, of Savannah, Missouri, for assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct at the 800 block of North Walnut Street.
A traffic accident occurred on North Munn and West First Street between **Nicholas B. Austin**, 21, and **Jeffery Ferguson**, 71. Austin was charged with careless and imprudent driving.
A summons was issued to **Emely Sandoval**, 20, of Sedalia, Missouri, for minor in possession at the 500 block of East Third Street.

Oct. 30
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 100 block of North Market Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny from a motor vehicle on the 400 block of West Libier Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for animal neglect on the 700 block of Prather Avenue.
A summons was issued to **William G. Heim**, 18, of Neola, Missouri, for minor in possession and disorderly conduct on the 300 block of North Buchanan Street.
A summons was issued to **Thomas J. Turner**, 18, of Neola, Missouri, for minor in possession at the 300 block of North Buchanan Street.
A summons was issued to **Isaac M. Harrison**, 18, of Neola, Missouri, for minor in possession at the 300 block of North Buchanan Street.
A summons was issued to **Andrea D. Morrow**, 38, for no valid driver's license at the 100 block of North Depot Street.

Oct. 29
There is an ongoing investigation for financial exploitation on the 400 block of North Main Street.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Voters wait in line at the Laura Street Baptist Church polling location over the lunch hour on Election Day Nov. 3. Maryville’s polling stations opened at 6 a.m. with COVID-19 mitigation efforts in place.

REACTION

CONTINUED FROM A1

According to a study published by the British Broadcasting Corporation, voters ages 18-29 had a 61% approval rating for Biden going into the election.

Junior Ty Williams, however, said he voted for Trump due to his work on lower unemployment rates for minorities in the United States. Williams said he agrees with Trump’s policies that “put America first.” Williams said that while he considers Biden a moderate, he feels differently about the Democratic Party as a whole.

“His party is unwilling to compromise with the right, but the right

has refused to do things, too,” Williams said.

William’s said his biggest fear is Biden will die while in office and Sen. Kamala Harris will take over with “a lack of experience Joe has.”

Freshman Victoria Caster is anti-abortion and voted for Trump by mail. While she liked Biden’s plans for the environment and climate change, she said she ultimately voted for less federal government control.

Junior Caleb Connelly is also anti-abortion but didn’t have transportation home to vote. He planned to vote for Trump due to his apprehension surrounding Biden’s health.

“The Lord will decide who’s best,” Connelly said.

Freshman Ethan Smith did not vote because he didn’t want to go home to his registered voting location and didn’t know how to request an absentee or mail-in ballot. Smith said neither candidate drove him to attempt to vote.

“Neither fit my political ideology; I’d consider myself a moderate,” Smith said.

Smith predicts Biden will win the popular vote based on other voters he’s talked to and the current standings of the Electoral College vote.

International student and freshman Angela Permreno is from Spain. While she couldn’t vote, she had a preference on who led the United States.

“Trump puts men over women,” Permreno said. “He doesn’t like immigrants, and I’m an immigrant.”

Freshman Isaiah Crawford lost his ID the week before the election and was disappointed he wouldn’t have proper identification to vote. While he stressed he wasn’t typically a political person, he had plans to vote for Biden.

“You should vote if you can because I wanted to but couldn’t. If you have the chance, you should,” Crawford said.

Poll workers at First Christian Church said they were impressed by the college-age turnout. First time poll worker Christine Benson said she was glad to see so many young people.

SHERIFF

CONTINUED FROM A1

Strong expressed gratitude to Nodaway County voters, more than 76% of whom turned out to vote in the Nov. 3 election. He repeated the word “humbled” three times in an interview with the Northwest Missourian that lasted fewer than four minutes.

“I’m just so appreciative of them,” Strong said of the county’s voters. “It’s just a great feeling. And we’ll do the best job we can for them.”

After indicating to the Missourian that he would be available for a post-election interview, White did not respond to messages or phone calls on election night.

Both in the lead up to Election Day and throughout much of the evening, Strong was confident in his reelection campaign. As county officials counted votes, his confidence only grew.

“We’re looking good,” Strong said at 8:30 p.m., as results trickled in from around the county that he’s served for the last four years.

Some supporters started to gather their belongings and head towards the restaurant’s exit after learning

that Strong held a 3,000 vote lead with 12 precincts reporting.

Much of the room had their eyes glued to their phones or to each other or to the flatscreen TV in the corner of the room, where Fox News analysts relayed the latest on the presidential race capturing the attention of the nation, and at some moments, the attention of the private room at A&G.

Strong’s eyes, though, were largely fixed on the black iPhone he held in his left hand, as he paced the room at times, tracking the latest results in the election he was running.

By 8:51 p.m. Tuesday evening, all the Nodaway County Clerk had reported results from all 17 precincts, each one of which voted overwhelmingly for Strong. Five minutes later, Strong was giving a brief, impromptu speech to supporters at A&G. He was heartfelt, but not quite emotional. He thanked them for their support at the ballot box and on the campaign trail. He promised to continue serving the county as he has for the last four years.

“Thanks everybody,” Strong said, as he kicked off his unscripted remarks. “Looks like we got it.”

“Happy birthday,” one supporter shouted back.

ELECTION 2020

CONTINUED FROM A1

Speaking at an afternoon news conference, Biden, joined by his running mate Kamala Harris, said he now expected to win the presidency, though he stopped short of outright declaring victory.

“I will govern as an American president,” Biden said. “There will be no red states and blue states when we win. Just the United States of America.”

It was a stark contrast to Trump, who early Wednesday morning falsely proclaimed that he had won the election, even though millions of votes remained uncounted and the race was far from over.

The Associated Press called Wisconsin for Biden after election officials in the state said all outstanding ballots had been counted, save for a few hundred in one township and an expected small number of provisional votes.

Trump’s campaign requested a recount, in addition to filing lawsuits in Pennsylvania and Michigan. Statewide recounts in Wisconsin have historically changed the vote tally by only a few hundred

votes; Biden led by 0.624 percentage point out of nearly 3.3 million ballots counted.

It was unclear when or how quickly a national winner could be determined after a long, bitter campaign dominated by the coronavirus and its effects on Americans and the national economy. But Biden’s possible pathways to the White House were expanding rapidly.

After the victory in Wisconsin, he held 248 Electoral College votes, 22 shy of the 270 needed to win the presidency. The former vice president had several possible combinations of outstanding states to win the White House. For example, combining Nevada with either Michigan or Georgia would land him at precisely 270.

Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien said the president would formally request a Wisconsin recount, citing “irregularities” in several counties. And the campaign said it was filing suit in Michigan and Pennsylvania to halt ballot counting on grounds that it wasn’t given proper access to observe.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
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Voting by mail leads to better turnout

NATHAN ENGLISH
Opinion Editor
@nathan_english



The phrase “new normal” thankfully died out a few months ago as it became less important to emphasize the “new” part of our lives in 2020. However, I would like to bring the phrase back and apply it to voting. Mail-in voting and early voting have been at the forefront of this election. It has enabled more people to vote and to do it safely, and it should become the norm from here on out.

Many of us have seen the reports across various news outlets regarding turnout in this election, which reached historic hieghts. Some states even surpassed their 2016 voter turnout prior to Election Day for 2020.

It’s clear that the heavy push for voting through ads, the tumultuous year and the two very contrasting candidates have increased voter turnout, but so has the increased amount of options. People can now choose how they want to perform their basic civic duty more than ever before.

Colorado passed a law in 2013 requiring the state to mail ballots to every registered voter. Voters are still allowed to vote in person if they wish, but the law was designed to give them the option. Voters can mail the ballots back or drop them off at a designated location. The system is a more extensive version of the one many states have adopted for this election. Breaking news: it works.

This law not only increased turnout but has also increased voter satisfaction and decreased costs for the state as a whole. And, of the millions of ballots cast in the state, there were only 48 reported cases of voter fraud in the 2016 election in Colorado.

It’s a no-brainer to almost everyone that mail-in voting works and that it is safe from fraud, except, of course, to President Donald Trump. Trump has repeatedly attacked the voting system in America and mail-in voting as a whole.

He’s clearly trying to cast doubt on a system that is projected to lose him the presidency at the time of print. It’s important to note that Trump does not in fact practice what he preaches — shocker. The president and first lady have both voted by mail in the state of Florida, but I’m sure Florida has never had a history of ballot counting woes.

The simple fact is that the more people who have access to vote, the more the system works. And while the president and the Republican Party have been on a mission to suppress voters, we are still seeing record turnouts.

Voting has been stuck in the past for far too long. We still hold elections on a Tuesday even though the original reason for selecting that day was due to the time it would take to travel to a polling location by horse and buggy. Election Day is not a national holiday, meaning that many still have to try and find time to vote during a normal workday. And many places still do not offer online registration.

While many reforms certainly need to be made, allowing widespread mail-in voting and early voting will help increase voter turnout, and if that’s not what you want, then maybe you aren’t on the right side of history.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:
Mask mandate pointless if MPS refuses to enforce it

The Maryville City Council did its job. The council passed a mask mandate and later re-upped the ordinance through Nov. 24 to keep COVID-19 cases low. Elected officials did what was necessary to ensure the safety of those they lead. However, now that cases are spiking in Maryville and mask wearers are decreasing, it’s time to change strategy.

One must ask, what’s the point of a mandate if it isn’t enforced? The answer is, of course, there isn’t one. Since the initial mandate was passed in Maryville, there has not been a single citation given out by Maryville Public Safety, meaning there should be 100% compliance with the mandate.

Anybody that has been in public in Maryville in the last few months knows that isn’t the case. The original purpose of the mandate was to help with educating the public, Maryville City Councilman Tye Parsons said. Maryville Public Safety officers focused more on reminding people to properly wear a mask and less on writing citations.

The mandate did have the desired effect initially, Parsons said. The number of people wearing masks increased, but it has begun to dip recently.

“I think we are starting to see our compliance going back down, unfortunately,” Parsons said.

The Council wanted to prevent unrest over the mandate, Parsons said. While that is a reasonable cause now that compliance is dipping, risking some people being upset over citations is not equal to anti-maskers risking others’ lives.

It’s clear that the proverbial third wave of COVID-19 has hit Maryville with 42 cases reported Oct. 27, according to the Nodaway County Health Department. Meanwhile, against the Council’s wishes, the “super-spreader” Downtown Trick-or-Treat took place with hundreds of people packing into the square. It’s clear from a video posted on this publication’s website that many attendees declined to wear masks to this event. There were no repercussions for their actions, save the eye rolls and stares directed toward them

“No citations have been issued at this point, but there have been several warnings to both individuals and businesses,” Maryville City Manager Greg McDanel said in a phone call Oct. 29.

Warnings can be a great way to achieve compliance without having to levy a fine against an individual. However, when there has not been a single citation issued, why would anyone take a warning seriously?

The speed limit is enforced even if the offender is only going 10 mph over the

limit and even on an empty road. Why? Because the law is there to protect people, and enforcement of that law makes people more likely to follow it.

The mask ordinance has been put in place to protect others. It should be clear to everyone by now that wearing a mask is designed to protect others. Masks limit the spread of COVID-19; that’s simply a scientific fact. Those who choose to ignore that and endanger others willfully deserve to reap the consequences of their actions.

COVID-19 has killed hundreds of thousands of people in this country, and some of those deaths in the ever-growing toll are Maryville residents. This isn’t the flu or the common cold. It’s a serious virus that has killed many people’s loved ones, and the ordinance designed to help prevent it needs to be enforced.

“Unacceptable,” McDanel tweeted in response to Maryville having 42 cases in a day, urging Maryville residents to wear a mask.

If someone feared a \$100 hit to their bank account, they would be more likely to wear their mask and less likely to spread the virus. It’s simple. The lack of enforcement is truly what’s unacceptable.

YOUR VIEW:
Do you think Maryville law enforcement should issue citations for violating the mask mandate?

Emily Giese
Freshman
Biomedical Sciences with Pre-Vet



“I think that they should get fined because they are putting other people at risk, especially because they don’t know if they have health problems that could compromise them.”

NAOMI DAUGHERTY
Freshman
Elementary Education



“Yeah, I mean if it is a law or a rule or whatever, then I think yeah.”

HASHIM ABU
Freshman
Cyber Security



“I’d say yes, but realistically, no. I don’t think, no, I don’t think so. It’s too difficult to enforce.”

THE STROLLER:
Your Bearcat loves early holiday cheer

So, there I am in the midst of my post-Halloween slumber when I awake to a curious sound. The faint sound of Michael Buble — he’s super relevant all year round — echoes throughout my house, and I can smell pine-scented candles in the living room.

In my post-sleep haze, I almost mistake the day for Christmas morning. But it’s not. My roommate has decided to start decorating and celebrating Christmas the day after Halloween, and I couldn’t be happier.

Yes, Christmas isn’t exactly right around the corner, but who cares? We all need a little holiday cheer nearly two months away from the actual holiday. It doesn’t at all cheapen the joy and importance of the day itself by celebrating it really early. It only enhances it.

Many will complain that seeing Christmas decorations in early November fills them with a sense of trepidation. They say it makes them feel the seasonal depression and existential dread that comes

with having to dip deep into the savings account to pay for frivolous gifts sooner. To that, I say, “eh.” At least you don’t have to untangle Christmas lights in your parents’ garage.

Also, how can you not be filled with happiness at the sound of Christmas music? Hearing the same 11 or 12 songs remixed and remade over and over again by almost every popular artist to simply sell albums to dumb people really is at the heart of the Christmas season.

So throw on that ugly sweater and hang up the mistletoe; it’s Christmas time. We are skipping Thanksgiving this year anyway on account of the political discussions that will surely take place being about as fun as receiving a lobotomy. Anyway, Merry Christmas!

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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‘We have to vote’

Young voters cast first ballots

MADELINE MAPES
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

More than 15 million Americans have turned 18 years old since the 2016 election, when President Donald Trump was first elected into office. Now, the growing voting block — which includes almost every college-age student — has played an essential role in deciding the 2020 election.

The majority of freshman students this year are first-time voters. Some were willing to share their experiences voting among a pandemic.

Northwest sophomore Zakary Moore, a social science education major, voted absentee by mail prior to the election.

The Beatrice, Nebraska, resident said he would have to drive two hours to go home to vote, so he decided that voting absentee would be his best option.

“I could have gone home, but I just figured it was a two-hour drive home, and a two-hour drive just to vote and then drive back was a little excessive when I could do an absentee ballot,” Moore said.

He said that he did not feel like his voting process was affected by COVID-19, simply because even if a pandemic was not occurring, he still would have done an absentee ballot to avoid the four-hour round trip home.

Moore said he grew up in a conservative household. He said his dad taught him what he believes is right and what is wrong, which influenced Moore to vote for President Donald J. Trump.

Moore explained that as he got older, he started developing his own views, resulting in him becoming more of a moderate voter, but he voted conservative due to the views of the Republican Party versus the Democratic Party.

“I lean conservative just because I agree with more views from that side than I do with the liberal side,” Moore said.

Moore said before voting he carefully considered both Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden’s histories.

He also considered what Trump has done for the country while he has been in office for the past four years and looked at what Biden did in the Senate for the 36 years he held the position.

Moore noted that being informed and prepared to vote is important because it is one of the best ways to make change in the U.S.

“I felt proud to be able to support the country because voting is one of the most important freedoms that we have,” Moore said. “If any person is going to make a difference in the country, we have to vote.”

Even though a person’s individual vote will not get their candidate into office, and they may wind up with someone they would have not preferred to be president, Moore said that it is still important to support the president, whether it was the candidate they wanted or not.

“Whoever is leading the country, you have to support them,” Moore said. “You can’t just not support them because they are what keeps you free.”

Moore urged people to vote so that their voices could be heard.

Even though there is a sense of anticipation when receiving a ballot in the mail, nothing can really replace the atmosphere of going to a polling location to vote. The secrecy the cardboard dividers provide brings with them a sense of confidentiality.

These experiences are exactly what drew freshman Miranda Mason, a vocal music education major to vote in person.

Mason is also a first-time voter this year who used to not be politically active, but now she believes her vote is important.

Mason said she was told by a friend that if she didn’t vote at some point, her voice would never be heard. So when Mason decided

it was time for a change in the U.S., she decided it was time to change her political habits.

The North Liberty, Iowa, native said she registered in Nodaway County to vote in person because she wanted to vote on Election Day, rather than drive home to vote or vote by mail.

Mason explained that she planned to vote in person on Election Day for a couple reasons.

One reason is the fact that she wanted the experience of voting in person for her first time voting. She said that she wasn’t as worried about the risk of exposure due to

“

If any person is going to make a difference in the country, we have to vote.”

-ZAKARY MOORE

Maryville’s mask mandate.

The second reason Mason decided to vote in person is because she had issues in her hometown involving stolen absentee ballots. This made Mason weary of mailing a ballot and hoping that it would make it to her designated polling location safely.

Although Mason did not directly specify who she would be voting for on Election Day, but she said that she votes based on whether she likes a candidate or not.

“I’m very in the middle,” Mason said.

She described herself as an independent voter that struggles to trust the government. Because of this, her vote was based on her knowl-

edge of the candidates and how they have gained her trust.

Freshman Shelby Rose is a medical sciences major who voted for the first time this year. Rose said she voted absentee because her designated polling location is four hours away and she felt that it was a safer way to vote.

The Grand Island, Nebraska, native did not share whether she voted Republican or Democrat because she does not like the conflict that sometimes comes with political beliefs.

Despite not disclosing the way she voted, Rose said she is all for voting and believes it is important for people to vote.

“I was really excited at first to get my ballot, and then it was just kind of like, ‘Oh, this is something that I am actually being able to do,’” Rose said. “It didn’t really register at first, and I was just happy (to get to vote).”

The excitement Rose felt about receiving her ballot and getting to vote for the first time quickly turned serious once she thought about how important it was to vote for the first time, especially in what she described as a pretty influential election.

“It could honestly go both ways at this point, and there are so many people on both sides. There are so many issues on both sides that need to be heard,” Rose said.

Rose said that she was a little sad that she did not get the experience voting for the first time in person. In the future, she looks forward to voting in person as long as it is safe from the coronavirus and available to her.

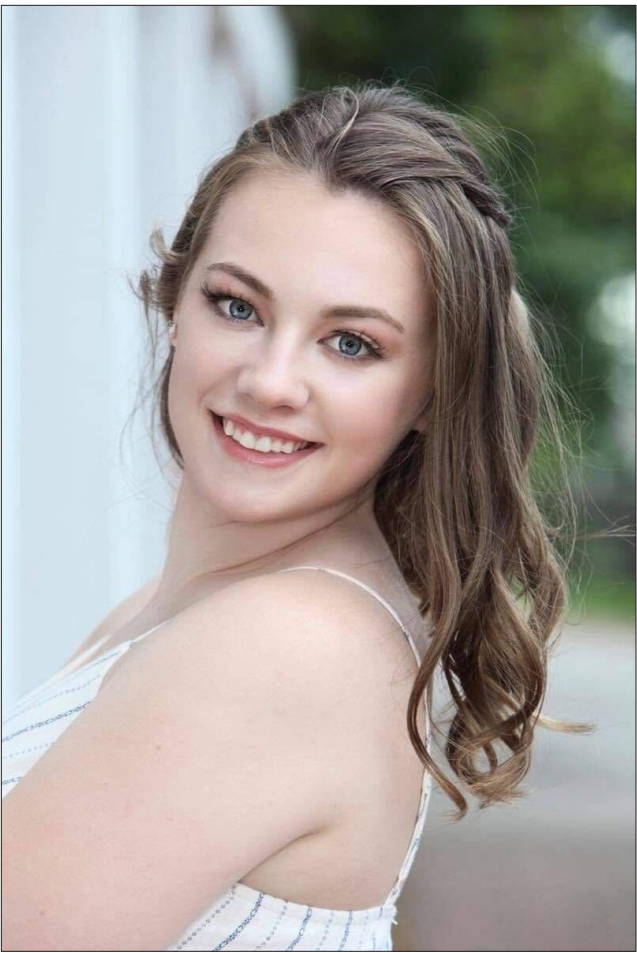
Despite the different ways these students have voted, they all agree that voting is a great experience that every person should participate in. They all noted that voting is a great way to make change where it is needed and can be an efficient way to make those changes.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest sophomore Zakary Moore voted in his first election Nov. 3. Moore voted absentee to avoid having to make the drive home on Election Day.



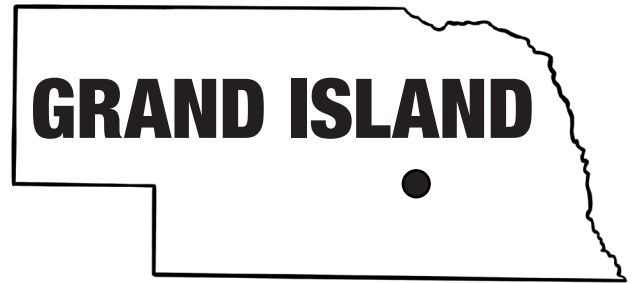
RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest freshman Miranda Mason voted for the first time Nov. 3. Mason voted in -person in Nodaway County.



SHELBY ROSE | SUBMITTED
Freshman Shelby Rose voted absentee in her first election Nov. 3. Rose felt it was safer to vote absentee in light of the pandemic.



NORTH
LIBERTY





Maryville High School sophomore Katie Weiss pulls junior Keelie Straightening over her shoulder during wrestling practice. The Spoofhounds spent their offseason unsure if COVID-19 would derail the upcoming season.

Spoofhounds return with second-year head coach

TRISTAN LYNCH
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

This year’s offseason for the Maryville boys wrestling team has been challenging to navigate, as its first official meeting since the season ended last winter.

While COVID-19 has been looming in the air, coach Dallas Barrett has spent most of his off-season concerned that it would keep them from having a season this year.

“I had a lot of mixed emotions,” Barrett said. “It’s difficult when you have so much unknown. You don’t know what’s going to happen, and everything is out of your control.” Senior Kieren Watkins spent a lot of his offseason waiting to hear from MSHSAA about whether or not he was going to be able to compete in his final season.

“I was pretty concerned,” Watkins said. “But in the offseason, I did my best to be prepared for if we do have a season, and MSHSAA said we are going to have a season now, so I’m looking forward to it.”

The wrestling team spent much of the offseason in new territory as it was forced into more individual workouts instead of coming together and being able to work out as a team.

“We really didn’t have much offseason training,” Barrett said. “Most of it was just individuals. There were a few that asked for some drills and tips and stuff that they could do, and a lot of others just did a lot of weight room stuff.”

With the Spoofhounds officially having a winter season, they began practices Nov. 2, seeing a lot of new faces.

“This year we got a lot of new kids, a lot of fresh faces, which is always great,” Watkins said. “So, hopefully as a team, we will be able to fill a roster and be able to compete in some duels and win some tournaments even.”

With COVID-19 being a looming factor in how long they are able to keep this season going, the team is fully aware of the new changes that will be in effect as the season goes on.

“We are still reading into that,” Barrett said. “But they’re doing a lot of minimizing contact and stuff like that.”

Some of those changes they will see throughout the season are the removal of pregame and postgame handshakes, limited referee contact

“I had a lot of mixed emotions. It’s difficult when you have so much unknown. You don’t know what’s going to happen, and everything is out of your control.”

-DALLAS BARRETT

and, depending on the school they are competing at, they will see a restriction on the number of people allowed to attend.

Even with COVID-19 being

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a big factor for the Spoofhounds, Barrett is more focused on keeping the team healthy and on track to completing its goals.

“We want to be healthy; we want to be safe,” Barrett said. “We got several seniors this year. They all have not only goals to make it to state but to also medal there.”

Watkins has been to state before and is ready to go back, but he is ready for the challenge that comes with being the captain of the team.

“Personally, I am a two-time state qualifier. I didn’t get to wrestle my freshman year, so this year my goal is to go place at state. That’s my No. 1,” Watkins said. “I also just want to do my best, and being the captain, I hope to get the best out of my team and make sure we all perform to our best potential.”

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CATS CONTINUED FROM A10

So, I just kind of looked at an NFL model and, when other teams started playing in the league, there was angst about scores, and we just wanted to play — we didn’t care what the format would be,” Rich Wright said. “When I put that on it, it became more palatable for everybody, where it’s an opportunity to really get ahead in 2021 when we’re actually going to play meaningful snaps.”

As part of a gentlemen’s agreement between the programs, the starters are only playing the first half. The second half will serve as an evaluation period that both coaches will use to determine what lies ahead for their teams, respectively, when MIAA football returns in 2021.

Despite the possible struggles with coaching the reserves through an entire half of football, Rich Wright said he doesn’t expect the starters to be perfect. He noted the fact that the first team

hasn’t had any live snaps since the loss to Ferris State in the Division II quarterfinals.

“I think it’s vitally important,” Rich Wright said about getting the chance to play another team. “We can try and recreate as much of it as we want to in practice, but game speed is just different. You’re playing against somebody else, it kind of gives you a benchmark of where you’re at as a program and you know what other quality opponents in the league have.”

The starters aren’t worried about having to prepare for live action, getting things going for 30 minutes of football and then having to stand on the sidelines for the rest of the day. They’ve been waiting for football to return since the end of last season.

When the Bearcats travel to face the Ichabods, they’re not expecting the reserves to let up either.

“I don’t thi — we’re not going to be turning anything off,” Harper said. “I think we’ve got enough depth this year to keep pushing and keep our foot on the gas all game long.”

HOUNDS CONTINUED FROM A10

“He’s a dual-threat quarterback. He can run and he can throw. Your offense runs through him.”

Since Week 5, Cameron has won four of its five games. The two teams have faced similar opponents with similar outcomes, but Maryville finds itself in the win column against Savannah, while Cameron does not.

On paper, both teams are almost identical. Cameron has scored an average of 35.7 points per game compared to Maryville’s 34.3 points. On the defensive side, the Dragons allow an average of 23.2 points per game, less than Maryville’s 22 points.

With weeks to improve since the last meeting, Webb does not want to focus on what happened on Sept. 25.

“You watch the game, you watch the schemes, you watch the players, and you obviously evaluate that game. You know back in the middle of the regular season both teams have changed,” Webb said. “Both teams are now in district play; it should be an exciting game.”

The Spoofhounds offense relied heavily on Weiss against Cameron earlier in the season, as he accounted for three of the four touchdowns. This time around, Weiss knows it’ll be more of a team effort.

“Personally, I just need to do my one-eleventh and play fast and physical,” Weiss said. “I’m not worried about myself as much as I am the team playing to its full potential.”

In the past 13 games against the Dragons, the Spoofhounds have

found themselves in the win column every time. The last time the two teams met in the Class 3 tournament was 2016, when Maryville dominated in every aspect, winning 70-6.

On the road, the Dragons are 5-1, with their only loss coming from Savannah. The Cameron offense seems posed when visiting opponents stadiums, compiling a total of 231 points. On the defensive side of the ball, the Dragons allowed 130 total points scored against them.

“Cameron is playing extremely well. Coach Wallace has done an awesome job; this is this first winning season they’ve had since 2013,” Webb said. “He’s got that program turned around. They’re firing on all cylinders, and their kids believe. They’re an excellent football program coming in here. In the second round of districts, we’re going to have to play very good to get the win.”

In a scenario in which both teams are capable of pulling off a win, special teams will be a huge factor.

“A key point in this game will be special teams and being able to operate in good field position,” Webb said. “This is a big-time playoff game; the state bracket gets cut in half. Everything will be on the line Friday night.”

Although Maryville has only played three games at the ’Hound Pound this season, the Spoofhounds have an unblemished 3-0 record. At home, the Spoofhounds have outscored opponents 164-67.

“Being to host in the playoffs is important,” Webb said. “We’ve talked about our home field advantage a lot this season, and even in last week, just a sense of comfort.”

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Girls without key players to start season

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

Official practices began for high school winter sports across Missouri on Nov. 2. For Maryville girls basketball, the court lacked the shoe squeaks of a few players. The missing girls can still be found on a court in a Maryville jersey, but instead, they'll be playing for the state-bound volleyball team.

Despite missing the introductory phases of training, coach Quentin Albrecht is unphased by his athletes' absences.

"There's good and bad that go with that, but mainly just good," Albrecht said. "You know, you always like to have all your kids to start with, just to keep everyone on the same page, but they'll learn more going down and competing at a championship level than they will in the first three or four practices here."

Senior guard Serena Sundell is one of Maryville's key performers who will miss the first week of practices. Sundell realized that this part of her volleyball season will be her last time playing volleyball, so she's enjoying it to the best of her ability.

Other notable starters aiding in the push for a volleyball state championship are sophomore starters guard Anastyn Pettlon and forward Rylee Vierthaler. With the starters away, the bench can play, which is something Albrecht said he isn't too worried about.

"The girls that are here can get more reps and different things," Albrecht said. "I think we've got a lot of girls that were young last year that can step up and give us a lot of important minutes this year. I think Kennedy Kurz is capable of helping us out quite a bit this year, and I think Halle Buck and Abby Swink can as well."

Coming into this season, the Spoofhounds lost two seniors, and Albrecht is looking for his girls to step up and fill their roles. Fortunately for Maryville, this doesn't prompt a change in play style. If anything, Albrecht wants to see



Maryville girls basketball freshman Presley Ingram passes the ball at practice Nov. 3 in the auxiliary gym at Maryville High School. The Spoofhounds play their first game against MEC rival Savannah Nov. 24 in the 'Hound Pound.

their scheme from last year, but with more speed.

"I don't know if we're going to change a whole lot in terms of offensively or defensively," Albrecht said. "I think we're going to emphasize some things we've always emphasized and do the best with what you have. I don't look for us to do a whole lot of things differently, but we might be able to pick up the pace of play a little bit because we have

a little more team speed, experience and depth going into this year."

In terms of chemistry, the team is in favorable conditions, as every starter will be returning for the 2020-21 campaign. The bond between teammates has Sundell excited entering into this season.

"Last year helped us grow as a team," Sundell said. "We did lose two seniors last year, but the other girls, our relationships are already

where they were at last year, which really helps. We're going to be able to take our relationships now and our experience and it's going to keep growing, which is really good."

The girls will have to come together as their schedule will host more challenging opponents than in recent history. The increase in schedule difficulty came from Albrecht's desire to challenge the girls throughout the season. He even

quoted Maryville football coach Matt Webb when explaining why he's not worried about facing more difficult opponents.

"This is the most difficult schedule that the Maryville girls team has had in quite some time," Albrecht said. "It's like coach Webb says, 'It doesn't say in the rulebooks that you have to be undefeated to win a state championship.' We really feel that if we're going to compete at the highest level, then we have to play high-level competition."

Albrecht said he'd much rather have a worse record with a more challenging schedule than to have a stellar record having played no team that challenged the girls.

Despite the difficulty of schedule, both Albrecht and Sundell are confident in the team's ability to reach, and surpass, last year's finish. The 'Hounds battled their way to the state quarterfinals before losing to Macon.

"I want to focus on the team this year and focus on taking us to state," Sundell said. "I want to do something for this program that can set a tradition for the years to come."

Sundell's goals reflect those of her coach, as he wants to take this team to the first state championship in 10 years and win as many games as possible. With a long season ahead, Maryville will have to earn the right to a postseason push with a successful season. Albrecht said the team has to focus on one thing in order to get there.

"We're here to play basketball," Albrecht said. "There's a lot of things going on with COVID, there's a lot of things going on with the election, there's just a lot of things going on in society right now. The No. 1 goal is to avoid all the distractions right now and focus on what the job is, which is, we're here to play basketball."



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Maryville High School sophomores Blake Karen and Keaton Stone face off during basketball practice. The Spoofhounds' first basketball practice consisted of dribbling, running drills and layups.

'Hounds hope for better results despite tough slate of games

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @t_smit02

Heading into this winter, Maryville boys basketball is hoping to topple the accomplishments it amassed last year. The Spoofhounds' journey on the court started Nov. 2, the official first day of practice for winter sports.

The Spoofhounds ended last season with a 15-11 record after starting off 3-7. Despite beginning the season with a rough record, the team was able to grow between each practice and game under leadership from the coaching staff. Coach Matt Stoecklin returns to the helm, and he brings back four players with varsity experience.

Most of the team is still finishing up fall sports, with the bulk of the missing athletes for the first week on the football team. Maryville soccer was crowned district champion Nov. 2. Maryville football is in the district semifinal Nov. 6 against Cameron.

"I think it is great that they are involved in other sports," Matt Stoecklin said. "It brings all these boys to learn

how to work as a team in different sports and be leaders when they can."

When Matt Stoecklin is able to return all his athletes, he said he is excited to implement new things offensively. The 'Hounds come in with height this season that they did not have in years past. A major key in the post this year will be Marc Gustafson. The senior center is the tallest person on the team, measuring 6 feet, 9 inches.

"We have an advantage this year with size, so we can add in more high-lows," Matt Stoecklin said. "Offensively, we can mix in a lot in the post and we have good shooters, so I am excited to see how our different plays this season."

The Spoofhounds are returning some key players to the court this season. These players have had experience on varsity and will be able to lead the new guys into the culture they built.

Gustafson has been able to work on his aggressiveness at the net and in the post, which will allow for more post action. Sophomore guard Caden Stoecklein is coming in looking

UP NEXT

MHS @ Savannah Tourney
Nov. 30
Savannah, Missouri

to put up big numbers this year. Caden Stoecklein will be running the offense and taking on that leadership role despite being one of the youngest players in the varsity lineup.

"These two guys I feel will take on the leadership role for us this year," Stoecklein said about Gustafson and his son. "Caden, being a point guard, he needs to know where everyone is on the court at all times, and I feel he is ready to take on that role."

The Spoofhounds look to take this team back to the Class 3 District 16 tournament and come out on top. The Spoofhounds' quest for a title last season was put to an end after losing to Central (Kansas City) in the district championship.

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Maryville High School junior James DiStefano kicks the ball down the field against a player from St. Pius X High School on Oct. 26. St. Pius took the lead and finished with a 5-3 win.

ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Soccer keeps playoff run alive

DALTON TRUSSELL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

After an impressive route through the Class 1 District 8 tournament, outscoring opponents 16-2 throughout two games, the Maryville boys soccer team is looking ahead at what is on tap for next week.

“We have to keep on practicing and doing a bunch of drills to prepare for the next round of playoffs,” junior striker Jacob Ferris said.

Now, the Spoofhounds have a bigger task at hand — the Class 1 quarterfinals on Nov. 10. Maryville play Lone Jack with a trip to the



semifinals on the line.

“We need to focus on doing the same things as this past weekend,” freshman goalie Jaxon Staples said. “Making sure we keep up the good passing is going to be a major key in winning the quarterfinal game.”

Maryville is getting right back to work after the win to secure the district title. With the quarterfinals approaching, the team is ready to get back in gear and focus on going deeper into the state tournament.

“We gotta keep working the ball like we did on Monday; we can’t get lazy passing the ball. We have to keep the ball moving upfield and

making sure we set ourselves up for success,” Staples said.

Even though Maryville is focused on the game next week, the Spoofhounds still found a way to celebrate the district championship win.

“We had to celebrate the win, so we went to Pagliai’s Pizza and had a team dinner,” junior midfielder Jacob Ferris said. “It was a great way to build team chemistry, and we had a lot of fun.”

Maryville didn’t take too long to celebrate the win before getting back to work. The program is hitting the pitch and doing everything

it can to get a competitive edge in the quarterfinal game.

The players and coaches are both scouting to better prepare for the game next Tuesday.

“We had the day off from practice, but we are watching film from the game to see what we can do to further prepare for the rest of the playoffs and hopefully make it to the state tournament,” Staples said.

With all the wonders and confusions caused by COVID-19, no one knew what that meant for sports. The Spoofhounds are just happy to be playing and that they’ve made it this far.

UP NEXT

MHS v Lone Jack
Time TBD Nov. 10
‘Hound Pound

“To be able to even be playing at districts is awesome, because to be honest, at the beginning of the season, we weren’t even sure we would be able to make it halfway through,” Maryville coach Chase Tolson told The Maryville Forum. “We are just really proud of the guys and how they played today for sure.”

’Hounds hopeful for state title to end year

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Editor | @curly_corbs

Maryville cross country triumphantly returned from Platte City, Missouri, with four of the top 5 finishes and the Class 3 District 8 championship plaque in hand the evening of Oct. 31. Achieving this feat had been



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School cross country team heads out for a run Nov. 2 on the trail located behind the high school. The cross country team is preparing for its next meet Nov. 5 at Gans Creek Cross Country Course in Columbia, Missouri.

something coach Rodney Bade was shooting for since he seized the helm of the program.

“It feels really cool to finally win one,” Bade said. “When I took over the program six years ago, I tried to compile some historical data, and it was spotty at best. One of my goals was to piece together history, and the top spot — it feels great.”

UP NEXT

State Championships
3 p.m. Nov. 5
Columbia, Missouri

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MADI NOLTE | FILE

Northwest football defeated Washburn 38-17 in Week 2 of the 2019 season. Now, the two programs are scrimmaging Nov. 2 with hopes of bettering themselves for when they play a real game in 2021.

Bearcats ready to face Washburn

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Braden Wright said there was a chance practicing into the later parts of the fall with no scheduled competition would become a grind. The junior quarterback was a week into practice when he said that Oct. 5.

Exactly two weeks later, Northwest Athletics announced the Bearcats would have scrimmages this fall. The first live football competition for Northwest since last December presents itself in the form of MIAA foe Washburn Nov. 7 in Topeka, Kansas.

“There’s a sense of excitement around our complex,” Northwest coach Rich Wright said. “We’ve been practicing since Sept. 28, so to get to the first week of November and actually have something to look forward to on Saturday, it’s



gonna be fun.”

“It’s exciting, man,” junior wide-out LaTroy Harper said. “We’ve been grinding for a minute, in and out of the gym, in and out on the field, practicing all day long. It’s nice to finally get out there and compete with another team.”

The last time the two programs squared off was Week 2 of the 2019 season, which served as the home opener for the Bearcats, who thwarted the Ichabods 38-17.

Braden Wright set a then-career-high that day with 278 yards passing to complement two touchdowns on 20-of-29 passing. Running back Justin Rankin, who graduated last year, tallied two scores in the contest on a team-high 93 yards rushing.

This year, the Bearcats won’t have the rushing efforts of Rankin, Isaiah Strayhorn or Raymond Thomas. It’s uncertain who the starter is to accompany Braden Wright in the

backfield. It’s uncertain what’s in store for the offense under the direction of highly touted first-year offensive coordinator Todd Sturdy.

“I definitely think it takes some pressure off of us, offensively, considering we didn’t have spring practice or summer workouts,” Rich Wright said. “This is a test drive for our offense, letting those guys get acclimated to what we’re doing without some of the external pressure of winning.”

The decision to play Washburn Nov. 2, and to host Central Missouri Nov. 21, was intended to put periods in those places where there are perhaps question marks.

“It’s definitely weirder than getting out there and playing an actual game, but I kind of like it,” Harper said. “We’re going to see how deep our bench is and see what all of our guys can do.”

Missouri Western, Nebraska-Ke-

UP NEXT

NW @ Washburn

3 p.m. Nov. 7

Topeka, Kansas

arney and Pitt State are MIAA programs that also decided to schedule competition for this fall. The difference is that those schools are playing full games, while the Bearcats, Ichabods and Mules are simply getting a step ahead of the MIAA for next fall.

Western, the first school to compete in a non-MIAA game this fall, lost 52-10 Oct. 31 to Central Arkansas.

Kearney and Pitt played each other that same day, resulting in a 31-26 win for the Lopers.

“We never really got an opportunity to evaluate our young guys.

SEE CATS | A7



MADI GLASSI NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville football senior running back Connor Weiss runs toward the end zone Oct. 30 at the 'Hound Pound. The Spoofhounds won their game against Northeast (Kansas City) 60-14.

'Hounds aim to slay Dragons

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville football hosted its third home game this season on Oct. 30 in the first round of the Class 3 District 8 tournament.

The No. 2-seeded Spoofhounds got off to a fast start against No. 7 seed Northeast Kansas City (0-8), with three touchdowns in under four minutes following kickoff. That paved the way for a 60-20 victory.

“It feels fantastic,” Maryville coach Matt Webb said about the victory over Northeast. “That’s what you’re in the playoffs for. That’s why we’re used to making playoffs runs and get to play at home. It’s an exciting time of year.”

The No. 3 seed Cameron Drag-



ons (7-3) came away with a win over No. 6 seed Central (Kansas City) 58-20 on Oct. 30 and will travel to Maryville Nov. 6 for a semifinal matchup with the Spoofhounds (7-3).

Getting a comfortable lead quickly against Northeast allowed for the Spoofhound starters to remain on the sideline after the first quarter. Senior running back Connor Weiss took that as an advantage heading into the Cameron matchup.

“We needed to keep all the starters healthy, which was crucial,” Weiss said. “We got our job done early so the freshman could make some memories along the way, and we get to remain healthy.”

The teams met once in the regular season, when the Dragons struck first with a 1-yard run from the

UP NEXT

MHS v Cameron

7 p.m. Nov. 6

'Hound Pound

junior quarterback Ty Speer, but were unable to find points after. The Spoofhounds came out on top, winning 27-7 Sept. 25.

Unlike the first matchup, Cameron will have a new face under center in senior Tyler Campbell. Campbell was out against Maryville due to COVID-19.

“He is an excellent football player, he’s one of the better quarterbacks in the conference,” Webb said.

SEE HOUNDS | A7